



# GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

SEPTEMBER 2018 VOLUME 9 ISSUE 9

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Peace  
House  
Ypsi  
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Photo: Peter Beyer



## Imperiling immigrant food and medical assistance weakens the United States



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

If you knew you'd be undertaking an expedition with an as-yet-unchosen subset of a group of people, wouldn't you want the entire group to be as fit as possible? Is this not the situation we are in with the children in our country, regardless of whether they are already citizens?

The first thousand days of life – from the womb through the second year of life – are critical to a person's development and future health. Malnourishment during this stage can lead to physical or mental stunting and emotional neediness that last a lifetime. Concentrating in school is difficult for hungry and nervous children. Teenage hunger has also been linked to risky sexual behavior.

Programs like the Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants and

Children (WIC), SNAP (formerly known as "food stamps") and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) were developed to ensure a healthy populace even during difficult times. Some of you might remember the Cold War years when President Kennedy launched the U.S. Physical Fitness Program so that children would be robust enough to serve in the armed forces, should that be necessary. Only men engaged in combat at that time, but participation in the fitness program was mandatory for all children so we could be as prepared as possible.

The policy the current administration is allegedly proposing – reducing the citizenship chances for any immigrant (documented or not) who lives in a household that accepts public benefits – diminishes our national preparedness. Families with even one non-citizen might make the decision to scrimp on food and medical care for their children in order to give the undocumented individual in the family their best shot at permanent citizenship.

This poses a public health risk as more children are unvaccinated. Communicable diseases go undiagnosed until they reach emergency proportions and leave thousands of children unable to reach their full potential and productively contribute to society. We

are an aging nation and the children of immigrants will pay taxes and fill job openings across the spectrum.

Many years ago, I worked with a new teacher who shared with me that she received welfare and food stamps. She accidentally became pregnant in her late teens. She worked part-time, attended school and raised her children for the next 10 years. Though they were poor, her children never lacked food, shelter or their parents' attention, thanks in large part to the assistance they received. The assistance tapered off as their income rose, and by the time she turned 30, the family was independent and paying taxes, as they would likely continue to do for the next 35 years. Her children were happy and healthy, and ready to succeed in school and life.

This family happened to all be U.S. citizens. But what if her husband had a green card but had not yet been approved for citizenship and they knew his chances of being rejected or even deported would be significantly greater if they accepted any public assistance? She almost certainly would have been unable to complete college. Would her children have ended up in special education programs? Would the stress have driven the father away instead of to their eventual marriage?

The Campaign works to continue Dr. King's legacy of gathering citizens across the nation to take a stand on major issues affecting all Americans, but particularly poor people and people of color.

During the National 40 Days of Moral Action, hundreds of church and union members and concerned citizens marched singing songs, carrying signs and demanding a massive overhaul of the nation's voting rights laws, the implementation of new programs to lift up Americans living in poverty, increased attention to ecological devastation, and renewed measures to curb militarism and the war economy.

Among the protesters, 85 people – many of them leaders from temples, churches, synagogues and mosques – were arrested for trespassing. This amounted to blocking doors and parking lots of government buildings in Lansing, and stopping the Q-Line tram in Detroit. These acts have garnered media attention and have shown our

Adding a penalty to the existing stigma of accepting benefits is bad public policy. Regardless of parents' status, children must be nurtured. Immigrant children are historically among our highest achievers, while immigrant parents frequently labor at jobs left untaken by citizens.

Unfortunately, this penalty is a change that the Trump Administration can make through an Executive Order without approval from Congress. (Attempts to dismantle SNAP in the Farm Bill were strongly opposed by the Senate, led by Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow and her Republican colleague Pat Roberts of Kansas.) Before such a change is made, a formal proposal must be released with an opportunity for public comment. I urge you to watch for this proposal and comment vigorously.

Perhaps this policy change will never be formally released and was just another gambit to make immigrants feel unwelcome. Agencies report that since the leaked memo portending this change, some immigrant families have already been frightened into refusing to accept benefits.

For now, my heart hurts for those families faced with untenable choices. I will be looking to support organizations that donate food and medical services without collecting any personal information.

neighbors that it is possible to have a voice in the public arena.

The Poor People's Campaign hopes to increase its ranks over time, just as the leaders of the Civil Rights movement did 50 years ago. At present, Campaign members are canvassing citizens to get out and vote – and to vote "Yes" on nonpartisan Proposal 2 in the November 6 midterm elections. Proposal 2 will stop the unfair practice of drawing voting district lines that empower one party and deny representation to a substantial number of poor and non-white voters (aka gerrymandering). Proposal 2 will establish a Citizens Redistricting Commission made up of four Democrats, four Republicans and five unaffiliated voters to redraw these lines and allow Michigan voters to be truly represented.

Please join the effort to create a more just Michigan and America for all!

To get involved, go to:  
www.poorpeoplescampaign.org or  
www.VotersNotPoliticians.com.

## Celebrating *small*



by Rev Dr.  
Martha Brunell  
Groundcover  
Contributor

I am a committed labyrinth walker and a trained facilitator for labyrinth group walks. I was at a labyrinth facilitators' workshop a few weeks ago. We had several different outdoor labyrinths within walking distance for our use at this event. One of the other participants also had a labyrinth in her trunk that she laid out in the back of our meeting room for indoor use. It was a very small three-circuit design on just a nine-foot square of material.

Our outdoor labyrinths were 42 feet in diameter and larger; the majority of labyrinths are seven to nine circuits in size. Often they are 24 to 42 feet in diameter or even bigger. I was a bit skeptical that her labyrinth was of sufficient size to provide a long enough walk for us. We gathered after lunch to give it a try. Before we started, she mentioned that some people who had walked it with her commented on how it reminded them of the value of small things. That comment caught my attention. And honestly, my walk on her petite labyrinth was an important teaching moment for me.

It reminded me of a favorite book that I like to use in worship or educational settings called "The King of Little Things." Its plot line is simple. His Miniscule Majesty, The King of Little

Things, reigns in a realm of nods and burps, chiggers and termites, buttons and marbles, keys and lentils, paper clips, macaroni, crumbs, seeds and pebbles. He embraces with love and care the insignificant and easily overlooked.

Meanwhile King Normous, who has squashed and eradicated every other known ruler, comes after The King of Little Things. When he attacks, all the little things either stop doing their jobs or, in the case of the chiggers and termites – along with the ants and bees – go at their jobs in overdrive. Before long, everything falls apart, everyone is at wit's end, and King Normous has no choice but to release The King of Little Things from the dungeon where he has thrown him.

My small-scale walk also brought to my mind and heart a favorite memory from my beloved inner-city church in St. Louis. Friedens United Church of Christ was located in one of the two poorest zip codes in the city. Those two zip codes were side by side, creating an area of great need.

Despite our small size and marginal setting, the church had a very active partnership with Clay Elementary School, just a few blocks away. As all of our resources continued to diminish throughout the neighborhood, we tried to build on our strengths and looked for modest efforts that could deliver a large impact at Clay.

For a while at church, we provided a new toothbrush every six months to all the students. Dental care in the neigh-



Above: a traditional permanent walking labyrinth. Top-right: the small, portable labyrinth used in Rev Dr. Brunell's facilitators' workshop.

borhood was almost nonexistent. Then we found a dentist who would take over that project. When we asked what was most needed next, the answer was clear. There's no tissue at Clay. And so we went about amassing one hundred boxes of tissues per month, four boxes for each of the school's 25 classrooms.

There was something very powerful about showing up for Sunday morning worship with a box or two of tissues tucked under our arms. We knew without a doubt that this unconventional

offering from a small remnant of people could influence daily comfort and health for students and teachers.

In a super-sized world of "bigger is better" or at least highly desired, we ignore the small at our peril. What will enliven and protect us and what will shred and cripple us doesn't have to be very big at all. Take this month of September to notice and be grateful for what you see that is small, essential and impossible to subtract from the great web of life that holds us.

## GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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## Will work disappear?



by **Martin Stolzenberg**  
Groundcover  
Contributor

A dad was having a dinnertime discussion with his teen daughter about her first work experience. The youngster exclaimed, “It’s not fun.” The dad retorted, “Of course not. That’s why they call it ‘work’ and not ‘fun.’”

It may not be fun but people need work; it’s more than the money. They crave work. According to *The Atlantic* of July 2015:

Studies have found that most people want to work, and are miserable when they cannot. The ills of unemployment go well beyond the loss of income; people who lose their jobs are more likely to suffer from mental and physical ailments ... It’s shown that it is harder to recover from a long bout of joblessness than losing a loved one or suffering from a life-altering injury. The very things that help many people recover from other emotional traumas – a routine, an absorbing distraction, a daily purpose – are not readily available to the unemployed.

Economic progress ensued when brain power began to replace muscle power. But we are now at another stage when technology substitutes for people’s senses and brain power. It is scary because, some time not far down the road, millions of us may not be able to contribute economically, and this can cause greater damage to the declining middle class. Alarming, futurist speaker Thomas Frey commented at a conference in Istanbul, Turkey, that by the year 2030, two billion jobs will disappear. That is roughly 50 percent of the current jobs on the planet.

Major job losses would occur in the following industries, according to Frey:

- **Electricity** – A shift from national power grids to microgrids that can be scaled down to a single home, and the power lines that dangle all over will come down and no longer require maintenance. Power plants will close. Linemen – the guys we heard singing on the line – will no longer be there. As coal and gas shipments diminish, many railroad and transportation workers will no longer be needed and neither will a slew of electrical engineers. (However, new jobs would be created, especially in the near-term as the electrical grid is restructured.)

- **Automobile Transportation** – Over the next 10 years, driverless luxury cars will start populating the streets. Eventually taxi and limo drivers, bus drivers, truck drivers, mail delivery drivers, Uber and Lyft drivers will all be gone. There will be less need for car insurance sales and clerks as the number of accidents will decline sharply from the two million a year we now have. Transportation-on-demand will become more prevalent, leading to a decline in car sales.

- **Education** – In the coming years we will need fewer teachers, professors and trainers. Teacherless education systems will be in great demand. A teacher only needs to teach once, record it, and then move onto something else. Already, the Khan Academy offers over 2,400 courses that have been downloaded 116 million times. OpenCourseWare offered through Apple’s *iTunes U* has over 500,000 courses from over 1,000 universities that have been downloaded over 700 million times.

- **3D Printers** – Object creation technologies, where three-dimensional objects are formed through a process of building up layers of material until all of the details are in place, is here. 3D printing makes it as cheap to create a single time as it is to produce thousands of items and undermines the economies of scale, especially when the cost of a new manufacturing plant is included. This could affect clothing and shoe manufacturing and retailing, among others. Printing construction materials on demand could eliminate various construction support industries.

- **Robotics** – the 800-pound gorilla in the technology area. Say bye-bye to lots of retail clerks, financial clerks and analysts, fast food workers, fishermen, miners, farmers, inspectors and even warrior soldiers (to be replaced by drones). Pricewaterhouse Coopers estimated in a March 2017 CNN article that the share of jobs replaced by robots could be as high as 38 percent within 15 years.

- According to *The Atlantic*, the four most common occupations in the United States are **retail salesperson, cashier, food and beverage server and office clerk**. Together these four categories are said to account for 15.4 million people – almost 10 percent of the labor force. Each is highly susceptible to automation.

New jobs will be created in these accelerating technologies but they will

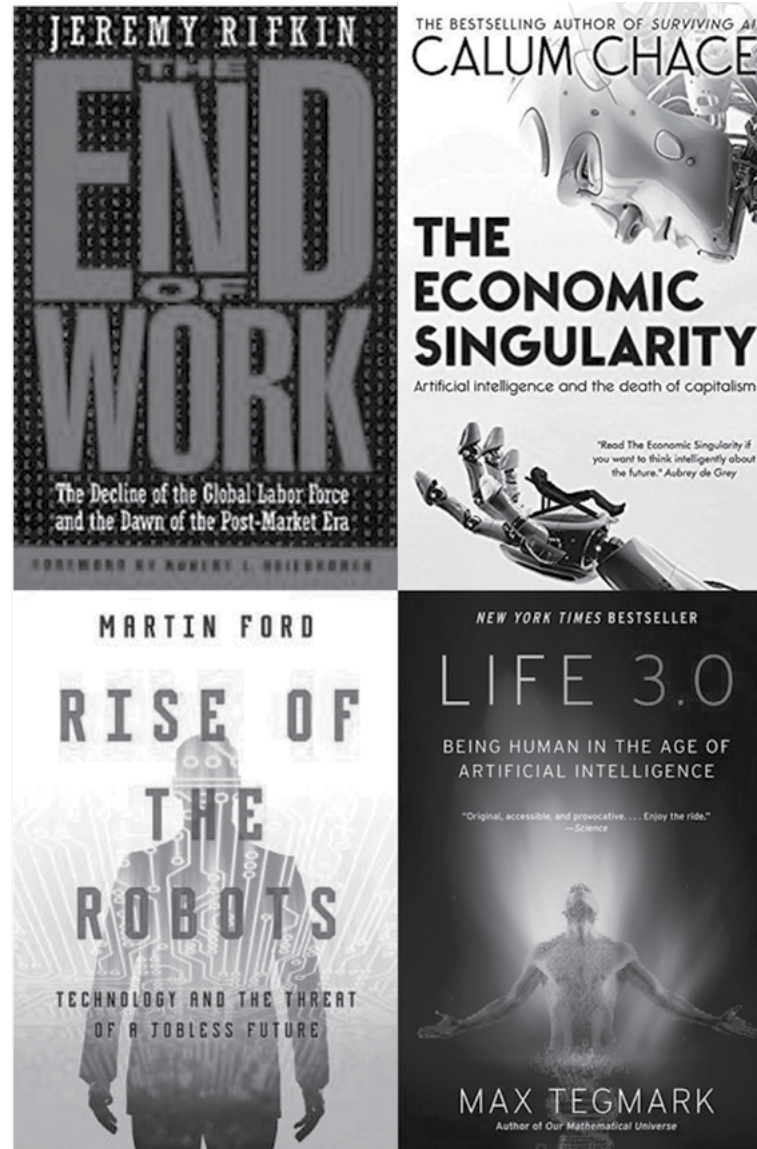
require highly skilled and educated workers. They will be replacing the millions of low-paid, largely unskilled workers. This, in turn, could mean greater social inequality.

“We are not culturally and emotionally ready to have this much technology enter our lives. There will be backlashes – destroy the robots or damn the driverless car campaigns – with proposed legislation attempting to limit its influence ... Our challenge will be to upgrade our workforce to match the labor demand of the coming era,” said Frey.

This could lead to rebellion. It reminds one of the Luddites. Today the term is used to describe people that dislike any form of new technology. But back in the early 19th century it was used to describe a labor movement that railed against the economic fallout of the Industrial Revolution. It started out among British weavers and textile workers who were afraid of the increased use of automated looms and knitting frames. Desperate workers began breaking into factories and smashing textile machines.

They called themselves “Luddites” after Ned Ludd, a young textile worker who supposedly smashed a textile apparatus. No evidence ever showed he actually existed, and he is depicted as a kind of Robin Hood figure. The British took this attack on capitalism so seriously that in April 1812 a few Luddites were gunned down in an attack upon a mill, and dozens were hanged or shipped off to Australia. It would not be surprising if the Luddite movement resurfaced as the swell of job-robbing technologies escalates in the coming years.

Moreover, the extent of new job creation may be exaggerated. If we look at history, nine out of 10 workers today



Questions around how rapidly evolving technologies – including automation, robotics and artificial intelligence – will affect humanity’s near future have received sustained attention from many of today’s leading thinkers.

are in occupations that existed 100 years ago. Just five percent of the jobs generated between 1993 and 2013 came from “high-tech” sectors. That is because these industries tend to be labor efficient. Consider that in 1964, AT&T was worth \$267 billion in today’s dollars and employed over 758,000. Today’s giant telecommunications company, Google, is worth even more than AT&T at \$370 billion but has only 55,000 employees, less than a tenth that of the old telephone company.

According to a 2018 Mercatus Center report, the share of working Americans males aged 25-54 has been trending down since 2000. The percentage not working has more than tripled to 11.5 percent since 1967. There are now seven million prime-age men out of work. But currently there are only 6.7 million job openings for men and women of all ages available.

Admittedly, safety net programs and cultural changes have made it easier for these men not to work. After all, there is Social Security, federal disability benefits, retirement savings and wives who work. But it is often challenging to find a well-paying job. It has been found that

see **WORK**, page 5

## Will work disappear?

continued from page 4

85 percent of these men do not have a college degree and 34 percent have criminal records, making it harder to find work.

For some who worked in manufacturing or construction and now can only find low-paying service jobs, the combination of an underpaying job and the attendant humiliation is a lot to bear. This is bad for these individuals, their families and the nation. The smaller work force makes for a slower-growing economy and leaves a smaller share of the population to cover the cost of government, even as more seek help.

So what are we to do? Conventional thinking promotes making college education more affordable and expanding the community college network to train more highly skilled workers. We could take a strategy from the German economy playbook where they have special schools that train youngsters for specialized high-tech crafts, and work in conjunction with industry to ready the student-workers for full-time jobs when their education is complete.

Another avenue that would lead to more jobs is breaking up the oligopolies. This is where three or four companies now have a monopolistic hold on many industries in this country. Industries that fit the dubious oligopoly bill include airlines, automotive, pharmaceuticals, oil and gas, aluminum and steel, mass media, computers and software, and cell phone services.

Most of these companies achieved their exalted status, not through intrinsic growth, but through mergers, acquisitions and financial manipulations. The driving force behind this contrived growth was, in large part, getting rid of jobs – a painful reality for those affected, usually portrayed by such benign phrases as “adding value to a combined entity and increasing efficiency by eliminating redundancies” and “immediate savings due to economies of scale.”

Breaking up the oligopolies would be a radical step, but would undoubtedly increase employment as millions of new jobs might be created. This could be done over time to minimize displacement. (While some might consider this strategy extreme or unrealistic, nevertheless some kind of radical innovation

is needed to help correct the employment crisis that is only going to get worse.) The break-ups could be achieved in a company on the basis of product lines or geography.

It has been done before. In a similar situation back in the early 20th century, President Theodore Roosevelt used the Sherman

Anti-Trust Act to break up Standard Oil and others into their component parts because they held monopolistic positions in their industry. This freed up competition and created jobs. After all, if a company is broken into four or five pieces, it’s sure to create jobs as well as more competition.

**“Some kind of radical innovation is needed to help correct the employment crisis that is only going to get worse.”**

The idea of breaking up the oligopolies is a kind of “reverse engineering,” creating more jobs by creating more companies. Equally important, consumers will benefit from more competition. Presumably there will be lower prices, more choices, more innovation and better service.

It won’t be easy. You can imagine how the old robber barons like John D. Rockefeller must have fought the “trust-busters.” You can bet the current big boys like the Koch brothers and their friends would similarly go nuts over this one and battle it tooth-and-nail. The way that today’s politicians are beholden to big money contributors will also surely make such a reform difficult.

But there is a new breed of politician coming down the pike, one that is more populist in orientation – from both the left and right side of the aisle. And if projections of accelerated job decline in the coming years turn out to be accurate, desperate times may manifest desperate measures.





## Peace House, Ypsilanti – a place of hospitality



by Will Shakespeare  
Groundcover Vendor #258



Visitors at Peace House, Ypsilanti are treated as guests in this home where they find companionship, a meal and a place to wash up. Photo: Peter Beyer

The Ypsilanti Peace House, like the Peace House in Ann Arbor, is a house of hospitality which provides shelter for the poor, the vulnerable and the homeless. Both were inspired by the famed peace activist Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement. They also provide food, clothes, shower and laundry facilities for housing-insecure people. Above all, they give hope, peace, and dignity to people who visit the house looking for support and sustenance.

Peace House, Ypsilanti will officially open on September 16, 2018. Most of the services now available at the Peace House of Ann Arbor will be found at the new Ypsilanti location. Guests can sign up for free showers and free laundry. Free meals are provided for both residents and guests. There will be donated items such as used clothes, shoes, feminine products, blankets, sleeping bags and tents available for pick-up.

The inception of Peace House, Ypsilanti was in the spring of 2018 when St. Mary's Student Parish bought the house, located at 706 Davis St. – near the main building of Washtenaw County's Department of Health and Human Services (DHS). Volunteers from the faith community and activists as well as those experiencing homelessness in the Ypsilanti area lent their time and expertise working on projects around the house. These included building sheds, installing rails, filling up giant holes, house cleaning, cooking and serving meals, yard work, and carpentry work inside and outside of the house.

The Peace House community values the contributions of all individuals, families and organizations that stop by to help the community grow, develop and succeed. Peace House, Ypsilanti is also working closely with the Washtenaw County Daytime Warming Center and local nonprofit MISSION A2.

Ms. Sheri Wander has lived in

the Ypsilanti home since spring and provides some oversight and coordination of the activities there. The house has had what Wander describes as a “soft opening,” with folks she knows from the warming center, Ypsilanti gathering spaces and Mercy House coming to shower and stay the night. There are currently a few residents. It will soon host visitors in its community center.

“The Peace House family is all about mutual aid and solidarity,” Wander said. “Guests help with chores, friends chip in food or needed supplies when they can. Everyone lends a listening ear or a shoulder to lean on. Working together, we can make it easier for each of us to get our needs met.”

Many new events and activities are taking shape at Peace House, Ypsilanti. The first Arts and Crafts Day was held on June 26, 2018. The community also formed a walking club, with plans to get together once a week starting in

mid-September. Starting September 19, the members are planning to meet and walk once per week. Monthly, participants will talk about healthy lifestyle choices and wellness-related goal setting. There are also movie nights on some weekends. Finally, once the giant hole that now exists in the backyard is filled, supplies are procured and planting beds are formed, the onsite community garden will supply fresh produce for community meals and healthy eating.

**“We have all known the long loneliness – and we have learned that the only solution is love, and that comes with community.”**  
– Dorothy Day

There are also plans for programs where issues of community mental health are discussed. For example, individuals experiencing homelessness who stay outdoors in tents have opportunities to share their views about how cold it gets in the winter season and how hot it is to be inside of a tent on a 90-degree summer day. Very hot!

“I feel better just being here. Just hanging out here helps when I’m stressed,” said Bridget M., a sometime Peace House guest and Groundcover News vendor.

Several Ypsilanti area high school students recently visited Peace House, Ypsilanti. They built a “Little Free Library” to promote reading. Community members who are interested in reading are always welcome to visit, grab a book, have a seat and read.

Peace House, Ypsilanti is evolving and holds great promise. In due time, the needs of the organization will be fully publicized for fulfillment.

To capture the spirit of Peace House, Wander fondly quoted Dorothy Day, the famed woman who inspired her to engage in peace works: “We have all known the long loneliness – and we have learned that the only solution is love, and that comes with community.”

Follow Peace House, Ypsilanti on Facebook to keep up with developments and get the details on the Sept. 16 opening celebration, which is currently scheduled for 1-5 p.m.



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## Change, growth – my experience volunteering for Groundcover News

by Jan Curtiss Taylor

**Groundcover News office volunteer**

Years ago, probably around the 1990s, I belonged to a church that used a downtown office building for its services. The location was across the street from Ann Arbor's Delonis Center for the homeless. At times the shelter's overflow, due to a shortage of beds, would sneak into the halls and stairwells of the business

office and sleep. This would frighten our families and attendees so we installed locks on all our doors. I wondered for years how to help without putting myself in danger.

Seventeen years later, I called my long-time friend and asked to volunteer at Groundcover. I went through a quick vetting process and was trained by a qualified long-term volunteer. It took several weeks to learn the ropes, but

there was always office staff with me at the church, which donates Groundcover's office space. I settled into volunteering every week and learned to assist the staff and vendors. I came to know most of the vendors after a year of being a regular.

I find this work to be a great service to our community and its spiritual growth. I invite others to apply to volunteer for Groundcover and meet a unique crew of team players. Hope to see you soon!



Jan Curtiss Taylor's (left) volunteer work for Groundcover News has fostered lasting connections with the Groundcover community, including vendor James Manning (right). Photo: Peter Beyer

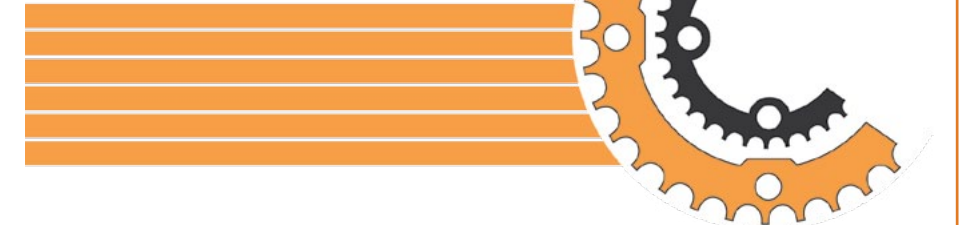
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## Ryan Hughes Independent for City Council Democratic Socialist

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### Affordable Housing

Ann Arbor is in the middle of a housing crisis. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a person would have to earn \$19.71/hr to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Ann Arbor. We are the eighth-most economically segregated city in the US, and the most expensive area in Michigan.

I believe that, if we are going to solve this crisis, we shouldn't limit ourselves to answers that cause developers to make money.

Instead, I propose that we create a city income tax of 1% on residents and 0.5% on nonresidents who work here and make more than a certain amount of money. With the revenue from this tax, we can build new housing units on land that the city already owns - **affordable housing, not luxury condos.**

### Black Lives Matter

More than three years since the Ann Arbor police shot and killed Aura Rosser, a Black woman and mother of three. Shamefully little has been done to address the conditions that led to her death. We need a civilian oversight commission that is strong and independent. We need mental health crisis responders who can respond to calls instead of police, and will be guaranteed not to shoot the people they are supposed to help.

Paid for by Ryan Hughes for City Council,  
214 Charles St, Ann Arbor, MI, 48103

### A Passion for... Activism

I created The Michigan Organizer, an online calendar that helps activists coordinate with each other:

[www.michiganorganizer.info](http://www.michiganorganizer.info)

### Arts

I am a DJ on 88.3FM WCBN. You can hear me Wed morning, 6-9am, where I feature music made by women.

I also write and perform marionette puppet shows with the Dreamland Theater in Ypsilanti.



## Aretha Franklin – a testament to the black Baptist church



by Elizabeth “Lit” Kurtz  
Groundcover  
Vendor #159

Like Aretha Franklin, I grew up in the black Baptist church. As a matter of fact, I lived next door to the parsonage where I saw families come and go over the years. What impacted me the most was seeing the sons and daughters seemingly embody the gifts of their fathers.

So it was with Aretha, who at four played the piano at her father’s church. Her natural music talent, undoubtedly a gift from above, was further strengthened by growing up in the environment of the church.

Even for those of us who weren’t preacher’s kids, the black Baptist church fostered a wealth of experiences. From Whitney Houston to Aretha, the range of musical experiences it inspired led to many big-time musical successes.

So in 1998, when media accounts were puzzled by Aretha Franklin’s standing in for opera tenor Luciano Pavarotti during a Grammy performance of Puccini’s “Nessun Dorma,” I was unfazed, knowing that women tenors are part of the black Baptist tradition where music ranges from spirituals to the classics.

In my own church I recall women such as Hilda Miller and Mildred Henderson, who seamlessly held down the tenor section of the church’s choir. Not only did they sing countless gospel melodies, but also classical cornerstones such as Handel’s “Messiah.”

This was the rich heritage that nourished the spirit of Aretha Franklin. As is the tradition of the black Baptist church, duties range from teaching a Sunday School class to taking the place of an absent singer.

So, when the famous tenor Pavarotti fell ill, Aretha undoubtedly knew her role in making the performance complete. She quickly stepped in with her well-trained female Baptist tenor voice to help make that night a success.

Aretha’s foray into secular music caused some to take pause and wonder whether she left the church. Yet it was her father, Reverend C.L. Franklin – the famous Baptist minister and civil rights activist – who in a recorded live performance of his daughter singing “Precious Lord,” exclaimed, “Aretha never left the Church!”

She will be remembered for many things, but her commitment to the arts and her passion to give back a wholesome musical experience to the church and beyond exemplifies Aretha Franklin, the “Queen of Soul.”

What began at New Bethel Baptist Church on the formerly-named Linwood Street in Detroit under Reverend Franklin brought us the incomparable Aretha Franklin,



Like many other black artists, the late Aretha Franklin developed her musical prowess in the black Baptist church.

whose soulful voice not only impacted her own home church but the entire world.

## Homelessness awareness – not just an annual observance

by Elizabeth “Lit” Kurtz

When flipping through the pages of any modern-day calendar, there are notable days that cause us to pause throughout the year and take notice. While Thanksgiving is perhaps the most noteworthy in November, the week designated for homelessness awareness during that same month is rarely mentioned.

Yet homelessness is one of our nation’s largest crises. People suffer from untimely deaths, basic items are persistently scant, and social hostility towards this group of people remains strong. Since 1975, National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week has started on the second Saturday of Nov. This year, the 9-day event begins on Nov. 10, two weeks before Thanksgiving. Social workers and a few other interested parties will hold events, but on a larger scale it basically goes unnoticed.

While other notable days on the calendar are important, few qualify for serious cultural attention like Homelessness Awareness Week. We live in a society where there is still distrust of the homeless. Stereotypes and biases abound. One only needs to visit a

social media platform such as Quora to hear the lack of understanding that still exists.

Innocent questions such as, *What do homeless people eat?*, *Why don’t homeless people work?*, and my favorite, *Why don’t homeless people just go home?*, reflect a world that continues to isolate those without housing from the domiciled. It bespeaks of how little time or effort has been made to educate children in schools about the crisis.

It shows that homelessness awareness rarely receives notice despite the fact that there is an official week for it every November and a special day for it in October.

So, after living with housing instability for over five years, I decided to do something about expanding the awareness of the homelessness crisis. I did this knowing that there is so much work to be done politically, economically and culturally. I did it hoping that we can move forward to changing the overused and basically defunct title of “homeless” to better and more humanely describe those who lack conventional housing.

I want not only to raise awareness, but also to raise funds. So, I’ve designed a



Groundcover vendor Lit’s t-shirt design for making a statement and raising funds on World Homeless Day, which is observed locally and worldwide on October 10 each year.

t-shirt entitled: “Homeless People Don’t Just Live in Tents” (see photo). The term reflects the idea that we are much more diverse than what that reductive stereotype suggests.

Whether one person or 100 wear it on World Homeless Day (Oct. 10), I will feel that we are moving forward. The idea is to raise enough funds to have a

larger homelessness awareness event this November.

I hope you will decide to take part.

For more information or to be placed on an email list, please send an email to [litshome1@gmail.com](mailto:litshome1@gmail.com), Subject: Awareness.

## Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

8			4		1			
5		7	9					
4			6		7		9	
9		8						5
6	1						8	4
2						6		1
	9		2		8			6
					9	4		8
			5		3			9

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$2, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy

papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not “hard sell,” threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
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## Even Better

by Tracy Bennett and Victor Fleming

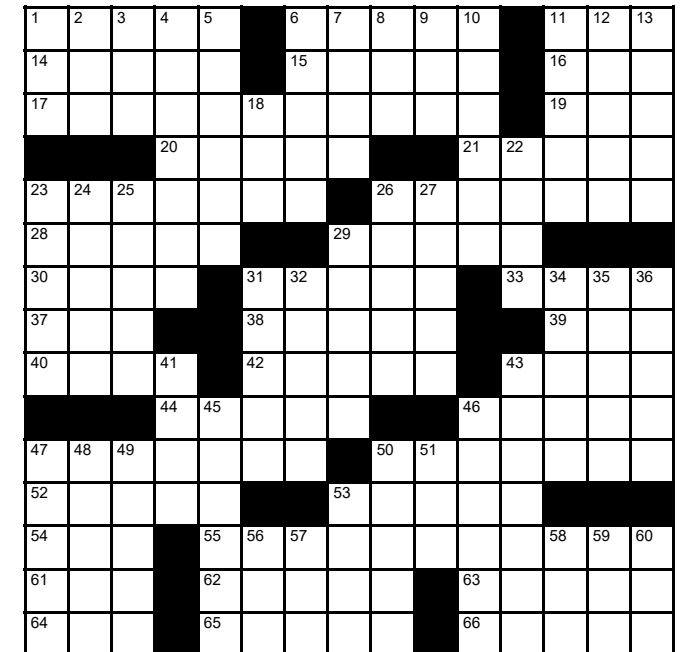
### ACROSS

- 1 "The Ecstasy" poet John \_\_\_\_
- 6 Hindu mystic
- 11 Took to the shadows
- 14 Kick out
- 15 He's more roaster than rooster
- 16 Wonderment
- 17 Leniency, turned up a notch
- 19 ObGyn, for one
- 20 Lumberjack action
- 21 Crisler Center is one
- 23 Fairness, turned up a notch
- 26 Transparency, turned up a notch
- 28 One-named "OMG" singer
- 29 Ewe did what?
- 30 Some membership fees
- 31 Cock of the walk's walk
- 33 O god?
- 37 Aretha Franklin's " \_\_\_\_ You Sure"
- 38 Consensus, turned up a notch
- 39 Marrying words
- 40 Find the same groove

- 42 Lets up
- 43 Columbian kitty
- 44 Italian alternative
- 46 Saoirse of "Lady Bird"
- 47 Attachment, turned up a notch
- 50 Mettle, turned up a notch
- 52 Suspect story
- 53 Coen brothers film turned FX series
- 54 Not a lick
- 55 With "the," a goal of selfless acts ... and this puzzle's theme
- 61 Apple tester?
- 62 Bisect
- 63 6-time Tony winner McDonald
- 64 École \_\_\_\_ Beaux-Arts
- 65 Mary-Moore go-between
- 66 Roosevelt bear

### DOWN

- 1 See 9-Down
- 2 Hug and a kiss, and another hug
- 3 WEMU news letters?
- 4 Counters
- 5 Magical potion



© Tracy Bennett and Victor Fleming (published via Adobe Acrobat DC)

- 6 Diorama or panorama
- 7 Designing Vera
- 8 Galoot
- 9 With 1-Down, "The Ecstatic" rapper aka Yasiin Bey
- 10 Off the hook, as they say
- 11 Underworld boss of old
- 12 Contrary words
- 13 Molder
- 18 "The Wizard of Oz" director Fleming, to friends
- 22 Perform once again
- 23 Traitorous disciple
- 24 Excessive interest?
- 25 Glossy effect
- 26 \_\_\_\_ couture
- 27 Some four-letter words
- 29 Low-lying vegetation
- 31 Atrial implant
- 32 "Fast Car" singer Chapman
- 34 \_\_\_\_ Prince aka Wonder Woman
- 35 Luggage dangler
- 36 Nary a soul
- 41 Crustacean in cakes
- 43 Defy civilized norms
- 45 Land safely
- 46 Ankle-biter of sorts
- 47 Stayed home in PJs, say
- 48 Boozer's bitter fruit
- 49 "Jeepers!"
- 50 Serve a function?
- 51 Mined material
- 53 Bestest
- 56 Solar beam
- 57 Final end?
- 58 Not even
- 59 LGA : New York :: \_\_\_\_ : Chicago
- 60 \_\_\_\_ of reckoning

## Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-665-6149  
Bethlehem-ucc.org [facebook.com/bethlehemucca2](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemucca2)

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



### SEPTEMBER 2018 EVENTS:

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>September 3</b>  | Labor Day, Church office closed                         |
| <b>September 6</b>  | Youth Group kickoff/potluck                             |
| <b>September 6</b>  | Bethlehem Prayer Circle, 11:30-12:15                    |
| <b>September 8</b>  | German Pretzel Sales, 10:30 – 12 p.m. \$1 or \$10 dozen |
| <b>September 9</b>  | Sunday School Kick-Off and Blessing of Backpacks        |
| <b>September 12</b> | Bethlehem Prayer Circle, 11:30-12:15                    |

### MARK YOU CALENDARS:

October 5 is our Oktoberfest dinner, 6-8:30  
Call for info and tickets 734-665-6149



**Sunday Worship Times**  
8:30 a.m. Chapel  
10:00 a.m. Sanctuary  
10:15 a.m. Sunday school  
Coffee Connection follows each service



## Boober Tours: overcoming obstacles, big steps forward



by Kevin Spangler  
Groundcover  
Vendor #307

September is here and it's the busiest time of the year for Boober Tours with football season. We work all the home games and we travel to MSU for their home games.

Big news from last month: Bank of Ann Arbor has purchased ad space on our Boober Tours trailers. This has helped Boober and the community in a major way. Our next step is to invest in marketing and advertising to bring in more revenue to the business. We are fabricating another advertising trailer. Boober is really turning into something amazing.

I have been searching high and low for app developers, but they come and they go. Nonetheless, I am starting to see some real progress in the app development stage. We expect the completed app to increase drivers' nightly income.

I have been going through major obstacles and I view this as confirmation that I am on the right path. I am extremely determined to follow my plans to the finish. I strive every day to constantly

improve and raise my vibration. I have an understanding of reality that people might not understand, so I have decided to apply the model to my life and demonstrate how to break away from the chains that we have put ourselves in.

On my spiritual goals I practice Nichiren Buddhism. I chant "Nam-myoho-renge-kyo," which means devotion to the Mystical Law of Life as discussed in the Lotus Sutra – widely regarded as the pinnacle of Buddhist teachings. To me, this law means that the energy you put in the universe is the energy you get back, and you cannot lie to the universe. I had been chanting an hour a day. Now I have increased my chanting to over two hours a day, thus helping to overcome all of my obstacles with ease.

I am still focused and coming up continuously with new solutions to overcome anything that comes my way. I have a really great crew now; I don't have to schedule anymore because all of the cabs are filled and active for more of the day, which is helping the business and making the advertisers happy.

## The Sad Freedom of Homelessness

by Philip Sprink  
Groundcover Contributor

Today passing a ragged gathering,  
And seeing among them an old man  
With a look on his face, half of deep sorrows,  
And half of contentment,  
Seeing a light around him for an instant  
I found myself thinking:  
"Isn't a train earth-encrusted and mechanically broken down  
Better than a train polished and new,  
But leaning into speeds too fast for its tracks,  
And careening with its many cars overturning  
Into a skirting gulley?"

At this moment it occurred to me,  
That there is a dignity, and logic, and strength,  
To living in the slow-time of the homeless,  
In a world pressing to move people faster than their heartbeats.

## America and Our Discontents

by Philip Sprink

Any who think the homeless are shiftless and lazy ne'er-do-wells,  
Should spend a month of winter nights  
"Sleeping" in hard chairs of a train station or shelter.  
Or sit for a season with a cup for coins on a frigid winter corner.  
Or walk about to collect big bags of cold cans in the snow.  
Or press cutting strings of a guitar for a bill or two,  
With cracked and knotted fingers,  
Day after day in this same sort of weather.

Were you to do any of this,  
The work and realities of hardship would strike you like thunder,  
And you would empathize more closely with the plight of the homeless;  
And understand that they are not sick souls or America's losers,  
But rather our most adamant "discontents,"  
Waiting for a return to life closer to the earth,  
And to "the native."



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## Groundcover Volunteer Meeting

Wednesday, September 15  
at 7:00pm

Bethlehem United Church of Christ  
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## Remembering Suellen Newberry-Bostic

by Elizabeth "Lit" Kurtz  
Groundcover Vendor #159

Suellen Newberry-Bostic was affectionately and deservedly referred to as "Mama Sue." She passed last month on August 2, 2018, leaving behind an immeasurable amount of community members to mourn her loss.

The tribute to her life comes in the form of the many lives she touched over the years.

Countless lives ranging from Baby Boomers to Generation X are testimonials to the refuge she provided them when few others did. Her ability to connect with those on the margins was outstanding.

The foster care system has always been burdened and not many people have the ability or concern to make a difference in the lives of children facing housing instability. Without formal training, Suellen Newberry not only did so, but was able to discern the difference between a rebellious youth and one in need, a critical skill in providing care for youths in trouble.

I recall her reflecting on the times when she needed to differentiate between a child wanting to rebel or one who actually had been abandoned by the loved ones who were supposed to provide a loving and stable environment.

One woman who later became a professional chef recalls that Mama Sue gave her safe haven when she became an emancipated minor. The woman admits that despite her inability to conform to rules during her younger years, Mama Sue guided her through her turbulent teens and she attributes that guidance to her later becoming a professional chef.

Quiet and unassuming, Suellen passionately played the role of foster parent without assistance from governmental agencies. Her intuitive un-

derstanding of caring for youth would serve as a bridge and respite for lives that might otherwise have felt the unforgiving sting of the streets.

Her daughter, Sarah Martin, remembers her mother welcoming friends of hers who might otherwise have gone without even the most basic necessities of food and clothing.

Son, Kevin Bostic, relates that during their upbringing there was only a singular day in his memory that he recalls the house being empty. On the other days, up to 20 teens filled the house where they cooked, cleaned and received counseling from Suellen.

Unafraid of breaking rules, she used whatever resources she had, even if it meant that some people had to sleep on her porch. But that is how Mama Sue was.

She covertly allowed me to sleep in a place that could have caused her to lose her residence. Having conversations with her when she shielded me from those cold winter nights, she revealed how important it was to her that no child was hungry or left without a place to sleep.

Despite battling lupus, she insisted on her cigarettes and a beer a day. She was happiest when her hair was dyed a light blonde. She loved recalling the days when her late husband "Stump" Bostic helped build the Delonis Center and other buildings around town.

In the end, modern day housing bureaucracy collided with her own sense of justice and self-determination causing her to live on the periphery during her later years. Yet she never seemed bitter or regretful. She was content knowing that she played a role in the lives of so many adults when they

were in crisis as youths. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren held a special place in her life. Even during her own housing crisis, she spared no expense when it came to her beloved grandson, Jalen, whose intelligent and sensitive demeanor is a testament to her influence.

I witnessed her elation as the song written and performed by her two great grandsons, the mask-wearing duo Ayo and Teo, climbed the Billboard charts in 2017 where it remained for 30 weeks. She beamed with pride noting that the youngest of the pair had many of her characteristics.

I was also the recipient of her encouragement. Her reassuring voice often gave me the confidence needed to keep going through my own difficult days of housing instability.

Her unique compassion for others will be missed, but the legacy of people she touched will always be a part of our memories.

In the months just before her death, she had been helped by Mercy House and was residing there up until the time she was admitted to the hospital. Mercy House founder Peggy Lynch delivered dishes prepared by friends of Suellen who gathered at Mercy House in the early hours of the morning to make food for those who gathered for her services.

Her final obituary reads: Suellen Newberry Bostic made her transition from earth to heaven to be with the Lord on Thursday, August 2, 2018 while holding hands with her grandson Jalen and her daughter Sarah.



Suellen Newberry-Bostic, 1942-2018, known as Mama Sue because of all the youths she nurtured.

She leaves to mourn her daughter Sarah Martin, son, Kevin Bostic; three grandchildren and two great grandchildren; two sisters, Gearline Riley and Mary Ann Newberry.

Suellen was preceded in death by her parents Matthew Newberry, Sr. and Essie Newberry-Fly; brother Matthew Newberry, Jr.; sisters Patricia Newberry and Esterine Newberry.

A documentary of her contributions to the community is in the works.

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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30	D	U	E	S		31	S	T	R	U	T	
37	A	R	E			38	T	R	U	T	H	
40	S	Y	N	C		42	E	A	S	E	S	
					44	R	A	N	C	H		
47	L	O	Y	A	L	T	Y		50	C	O	U
52	A	L	I	B	I			53	F	A	R	G
54	Z	I	P			56	G	R	E	A	T	E
61	E	V	E			62	H	A	L	V	E	
64	D	E	S			65	T	Y	L	E	R	



## Classic pesto sauce

by Elizabeth Bauman  
Groundcover Contributor

### Ingredients

2 cup fresh basil leaves  
3 cloves garlic, peeled  
1/3 cup pine nuts  
1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste  
1/3 cup olive oil

### Directions

Combine basil, garlic, pine nuts and Parmesan in the bowl of a food processor; season with salt and pepper. With the motor running, add olive oil in a slow

stream until emulsified.

Serve over fresh pasta and enjoy!

**Storage:** Fresh pesto can be kept in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 1 week. Alternatively, freeze in ice cube trays, and then store frozen pesto cubes in plastic freezer bags in freezer for up to 6 months.





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